President.—So there is no necessity for the addition of rules.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—If some rules are specially framed for this purpose, it would be much better. The same thing exists in British Malabar and Travancore.

President.—Is there anything to show that the Director of Public Instruction is not exercising his discretion properly?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—That is a matter of opinion.

President.—Now, so far as the Head of the Department is concerned, you find no difficulty.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—But the section in *the Code* is not clear. Some special rules may be made which would be advantageous.

Resolutions passed at the meeting of the Cochin Catholic School Managers' Association.

97. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are in receipt of the resolutions passed in the annual meeting of the Cochin Catholic School Managers' Association held at Ernakulam on 20th May 1926;

(b) if so, what step has been taken regarding those resolutions?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes.

(b) They are engaging the attention of the Government.

The Convent School, Ollur.

98. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether

(a) it is a fact that the Manager of the Convent School, Ollur, claimed grant-in-aid to several classes, while the strength of those classes did not justify the full grant;

(b) the number of occasions so claimed and the total amount so paid;

(c) whether the Director has taken any action on such unjustifiable demands, and if so, the nature of action in detail he took;

(d) did not the case justify a deterrent punishment;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, why was the case let off in such a manner;

(f) whether the Director has powers in such matters to do as he did without the special sanction of the Diwan?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes; for two classes.

(b) On three occasions. The total amount paid was Rs. 307-12-8.

(c) When the mistake was found out, the Manager's explanation was called for. The explanation submitted by him

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showed clearly that it was a case of misconception of the rules and no fraud. The Manager was warned, and the excess amount drawn was recovered from the next grant bill.

(d) and (e) The case deserved nothing more or less than the action taken by the department.

(f) Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know how he came to the conclusion that it was a case of misconception of the rules and no fraud?

Mr. C. Matthai.—I shall explain it further. The Manager sends grant bills and a separate attendance report of the pupils. When this matter came before me, I called for the strength of each class, and I found the Manager was giving correct figures. Now, the strength given in the Pupils' Attendance Report and that given in the bill were different. In the Pupils' Attendance Report he has given the correct figures, but in the grant bill he has put in a different figure which should be the minimum strength of a class for claiming full grant. If he has given the attendance as is given in the Pupils' Attendance Report, he could claim only half grant. When I asked him to explain this difference, and why he was claiming full grant, he said that, as long as he was able to show the full income that would be derived by the minimum strength of the pupils, he thought he was within his rights in claiming full grant, and then he said, as for the actual strength of the class, he had been sending me the correct statements. So it could not be taken as an intentional hiding of facts. We calculate the total fee collection of the whole class, and unless the strength came to the minimum, I would give only half grant. But in this case, there were one or two pupils less. His explanation was that, as long as he compensated the Government, the Government would not be a loser, and he would not be taken to have infringed the rules. Further, in the statements he was giving the correct figures.

Religious instruction in schools.

99. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state what is the final order passed by the Government on the point of imparting religious instruction in schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Final orders have not been passed.

Girls' Sports at Trichur.

100. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Ladies' Badminton and Girls' Sports were held on the grounds of the Government Maternity Hospital, Trichur, during the first week of January 1926; if no informa-

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